

## Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FBOE-00 A-01 /017 W  
-----066029 100837Z /12

R 100500Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3501  
INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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FROM AMBASSADOR

KUWAIT FOR RSO

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ASEC, MU  
SUBJECT: MUSCAT SECURITY SURVEY

REF: (A) KUWAIT A-036 (B) STATE 154156 AND PREVIOUS

1. I HAVE CAREFULLY STUDIED RSO GIBSON'S RECNT SECURITY SURVEY, WHICH ARRIVED DURING MY RECENT LEAVE/CONSULTATION. I COMMEND HIS THOROUGH AND PROFESSIONAL JOB, AND READILY CONCUR IN MAJORITY OF RECOMMENDATIONS. MANY ARE ALREADY CARRIED OUT AND BY SEPTTEL

WE ARE REQUESTING FUNDS FOR OTHERS. I HAVE SOME RESERVATIONS, HOWEVER, ON SEVERAL RECOMMENDATIONS, AS FOLLOWS.

2. MOST COMPLICATED AND FAR-REACHING RECOMMENDATION IS NO. 1, CALLING FOR WHOLESALE RECONFIGURATION OF SERVANTS' QUARTERS INTO NEW SECURE ENTRANCE AREA, AND INVOLVING RELOCATION OF BUILDING'S EXISTING CENTRAL ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AS WELL AS CONSTRUCTION OR ACQUISITION OF ALTERNATE SERVANTS' QUARTERS. THIS IS AN EXCEPTIONALLY BIG AND EXPENSIVE BITE TO CHEW OFF, ALSO THE TIMING FOR DOING IT SEEMS HIGHLY QUESTIONABLE AS OUR LEASE  
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ON BUILDING EXPIRES IN 15 MONTHS.

A. COST FACTORS HAVE BEEN SUBJECT OF PREVIOUS CABLES.

B. APART FROM THAT, I AM RELUCTANT TO AGREE TO SUCH EXTENSIVE CHANGE IN CENTRAL ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION CORE OF THIS ANCIENT CHANCERY/RESIDENCE BUILDING. AS IT IS, WE OFTEN HAVE ELECTRICAL

PROBLEMS IN THE BUILDING BUT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DEAL WITH THEM SATISFACTORILY. MUNICIPAL POWER SUPPLY HAS FREQUENT, OFTEN DAILY IRREGULARITIES; VOLTAGE FLUCTUATIONS ARE COMMON; AND IN RECENT WEEKS LOSS OF ONE OF OUR THREE "PHASES" HAS BEEN A REGULAR OCCURENCE. YET I HAVE A SENSE OF SOME CONFIDENCE IN CAPABILITY OF OUR EXISTING CENTRAL ELECTRICAL CORE (PRIMITIVE LOOKING THOUGH IT MAY BE) TO SERVE US SATISFACTORILY AND SAFELY DESPITE THESE PROBLEMS. IT HAS COPEDED SO FAR AND I HOPE WILL CONTINUE. A MAIN SOURCE OF CONFIDENCE IS THAT BUILDING'S LAST TENANT, PRE-1972, WAS WEST GERMAN OIL COMPANY WHOSE TECHNICIANS CHECKED OUT AND IMPROVED ELECTRICAL AND WATER SYSTEMS ON THE PREMISES IN WHAT I REGARD AS HIGHLY CAPABLE MANNER. SO I VIEW WITH GREAT DISMAY ANY PROSPECT OF HAVING TO UNDERGO COMPLETE REVAMPING OF BUILDING'S ELECTRICAL CORE.

C. AUTHORITY FROM LANDLORD WOULD BE ESSENTIAL BEFORE ANY WORK UNDER RECOMMENDATION 1 COULD START. (THE SAME WOULD BE TRUE VIS-AVIS RECOMMENDATIONS 9 AND 34.) RATHER THAN APPROACHING THE OWNERS NOW ON THESE MATTERS, HOWEVER, IT SEEMS MORE PERTINENT TO APPROACH THEM REGARDING TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR AN EXTENSION OF OUR BASIC LEASE. POST'S VIEWS ON THIS ARE BEING CABLED SEPARATELY. SHOULD WE NOT BE OCCUPYING THESE PREMISES BEYOND OCTOBER 1978, RECOMMENDATION 1 MAKES LITTLE SENSE FOR MONETARY REASONS ALONE.

3. RECOMMENDATION 9 CALLS FOR GRILLING THREE SETS OF WINDOWS, ABOVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND ADJACENT TO ACCESS DOOR FROM RESIDENCE PATIO TO MAIN STAIRWAYS. THESE ARE ANTIQUE COLORED GLASS WINDOWS WHICH, LIKE NUMEROUS SETS OF SIMILAR WINDOWS WITHIN RESIDENCE LIVING AND DINING AREAS, COMPRISE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF BUILDING'S CHARM AND ATTRACTIVENESS AS ONE OF MOST IMPRESSIVE REMAINING OMANI PATRICIAN HOMES IN OLD MUSCAT. WE MUST TAKE GREAT CAUTION TO PROTECT THEM. (IN ANY CASE LANDLORD WOULD INSIST ON THAT.) ALREADY THESE WINDOWS IN SOME PLACES ARE CRACKED AND BROKEN AND WE TAKE CONSIDERABLE PAINS NOT TO WEAKEN THEM FURTHER. I PREFER TO HOLD UP ON WORK UNDER THIS RECOMMENDATION UNLESS WE HAVE ABSOLUTE ASSURANCE FROM CONTRACTOR THAT PROCESS OF INSTALLATION WILL DETRACT ONLY MINIMALLY FROM THEIR APPEARANCE AND WILL NOT HARM WINDOWS IN ANY WAY, AND THAT GRILLING WOULD BE SUITABLY DECORATIVE. THIS MAY NOT PROVE POSSIBLE.

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FBOE-00 A-01 /017 W

-----065650 100840Z /12

R 100500Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3502  
INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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4. RECOMMENDATION 18 CONCERNS ADDITIONAL GRILLING TO SEVERAL WINDOWS IN THE CONTROLLED AREA OVERLOOKING BUILDING'S SO-CALLED CENTRAL COURT. THIS WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO WORKING CONDITIONS OF TWO EMBASSY SECRETARIES. IN KEEPING WITH ARCHITECTURAL STYLING, ROOM HAS ESSENTIALLY DARK DECOR TO BEGIN WITH AND THERE ARE NO OTHER WINDOWS. WHILE IT MAY PROVE POSSIBLE TO PERFORM THIS GRILLING IN ACCEPTABLE MANNER, WE MUST CHECK CONTRACTOR'S DESIGN CAREFULLY TO BE CERTAIN BEFORE IT STARTS.

5. RECOMMENDATION 28 CALLS FOR ENCLOSING OR BURYING THE GENERATOR FUEL SUPPLY TANK NOW EXPOSED IN CORNER OF GARDEN. WE PROPOSE HOLDING OFF ON ANY ACTION UNTIL MATTER OF POSSIBLE LEASE EXTENSION IS RESOLVED.

6. RECOMMENDATION 29 COVERS A POSSIBLE MSG DETACHMENT. I BELIEVE IT WILL BE PREMATURE TO MOVE TOWARD MARINE GUARDS AT THIS POST.

7. RECOMMENDATION 33 PERTAINS TO SEPARATE ADMIN OFFICE. THE DOOR AND LOCK RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AS FUNDING PERMITS. WE FEEL THAT THE MAJOR MODIFICATIONS RECOMMENDED FOR ACCESS CONTROL SHOULD BE HELD UP, PENDING RESOLUTION OF OUR STAY IN MUSCAT DUE TO COST AND COMPLICATIONS RESULTING FROM SUCH A CHANGE TO A LEASED RESIDENTIAL APARTMENT.

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8. FINALLY, RECOMMENDATION 34 SUGGESTS STUDY OF A POSSIBLE PHYSICAL STRUCTURE ON THE HIGH ROCK HILL IMMEDIATELY BEHIND THE EMBASSY.

WE HAVE HAD CONTRACTOR STUDY THIS. HIS PROPOSAL CALLS FOR PUTTING UP 6-FOOT HIGH CHAIN LINK FENCE USING CONCRETE POSTS AND WITH CONCERTINA WIRE ON TOP; FENCE WOULD RUN ROUGHLY 50 FEET ABOVE BUILDING ROOF LEVEL. WE HAVE SERIOUS MISGIVINGS ABOUT APPEARANCE

THIS WOULD PRESENT AND ITS ACTUAL SECURITY EFFECTIVENESS, BUT  
WILL TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT IT ONCE LEASE QUESTION IS RESOLVED.  
WOLLE

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009